



*John F. Garvey*  
86 Linde Drive  
South Weymouth, MA 02190  
[jfgarvey@comcast.net](mailto:jfgarvey@comcast.net)

.....  
September 13, 2014

The Honorable Janet L. Sanders  
c/o Office of Attorney General  
Anti-Trust Division  
One Ashburton Place  
Boston, MA 02108

Via Facsimile to 617-722-0184

**RE: Merger of South Shore Hospital, Harbor Medical and Partners Healthcare**

Judge Sanders:

As a longtime resident of South Weymouth, I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed merger referenced above. I am unaffiliated with any of the parties involved and am expressing my opinion as a former and potential future patient of South Shore Hospital.

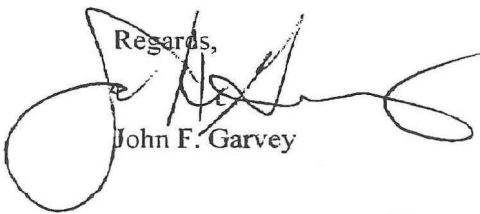
While not an economist, it appears to me that merging the largest south shore medical facility with probably the largest statewide medical entity will result in less competition. I believe most people agree that competition keeps prices and costs down. Healthcare, as I'm sure you're aware has skyrocketed in the last twenty years. The way to keep costs down is to increase, not decrease, competition.

Because of concerns with their bottom line, I envision Partners eliminating positions at both South Shore Hospital and Harbor Medical. I've seen very few mergers where this has not occurred. Securing a physician appointment is already challenging, post-merger it will be daunting.

I don't think a better case can be made against this merger than the one made in the letter to Attorney General Coakley on July 21, 2014 by economists from Harvard, Yale, Northwestern University, Stanford University, University of Pennsylvania, Boston University, et al. These academics, whose expertise is in economics, have expressed their opposition to the proposed merger.

I believe it is in the best interest of residents of the south shore, as well as others in eastern Massachusetts, that this merger not proceed.

Regards,

  
John F. Garvey